

Farmers Alarmed at Possibility of Coal, Rail Strike

Granges Urged to Use Influence in Moulding Public Opinion in Favor of Settlement.

By ARTHUR SEARS HENNING.

Washington, March 7.—The farmers, who are beginning to reap the benefits of returning prosperity, are alarmed by the possibility of a coal and rail strike, which would paralyze industry and agriculture in planting season and halt the progress of readjustment from wartime economic conditions.

S. J. Lowell, master of the National Grange, has addressed an appeal to the 8,000 local Granges to read at their meetings throughout the country this week, urging them to mobilize their influence in the moulding of public opinion into a universal demand for the settlement of the coal mine wage question, without resort to a strike.

Meanwhile Secretary of Labor Davis is continuing his endeavor to bring about a conference of the miners and operators, as is provided by their existing agreement, but said today he is not prepared to state what progress he has made. He thinks that the telegraphic correspondence between President Lewis of the miners and President Harding of the Illinois union indicates "there will be no new agreement, but separate state agreements in the central competitive field."

Production has jumped 40 per cent in the bituminous fields, there having been an increase of 500,000 tons daily in the last seven weeks, nearly all of which is going into storage, along with the surplus of 30,000,000 tons of January 1.

The movement of the National Grange to consolidate public opinion against a strike has been endorsed by Senators McNary, Keyes, Fernald, Page, Moses, Willis and Poin-

dester.

Appeal to Granges.

The appeal to the Granges by National Master Lowell follows in part:

"If a coal strike takes place, the production of the fuel, upon which the prosperity and well being of millions depends, will cease. Although it is claimed that coal enough to last for a month or more is now above ground, any stoppage of production obviously will result in higher prices in the near future. If railroad workers strike, the transportation upon which the food of millions depends will stop.

"A railroad strike now means farmers' products remaining unsold and spoiling. And that may mean famine, suffering and perhaps death in the cities. It means farm supplies piled up in railroad yards while fields wait for seeds, fertilizer and machinery necessary to make them productive.

"We are doing our part and it is not unfair for us to demand that both capital and labor do theirs. What ever differences may exist between them must be adjusted without stopping the wheels of commerce."

Better Times Shown by "Settlement Day"

Columbus, Neb., March 7.—(Special.)—Considerable improvement in the financial situation locally as compared with a year ago is evidenced by the March 1 settlements, according to the bankers and real estate men.

"It has been the quietest March 1 we have experienced in some years," said one of the bankers. "The number of land transfers has been small, but the total volume in money will amount to quite a respectable sum."

"The situation reflects a healthy tone because a large percentage of the notes issued a year ago, when farmers were unable in many cases to take care of the interest on their obligations, is being cleared up. Payments on principal are not running as large as in some normal years, but this is no cause for worry, because with the markets showing a steady upward tendency, farmers are inclined to hold off a few weeks in disposing of any more of their grain than is necessary to meet interest payments. The rise in markets has given the farmers more confidence, and made them more hopeful. There is a new spirit in the land."

"Boy Poet," 80, Embarks on Matrimony Sea Fifth Time

Central City, Neb., March 7.—(Special.)—William Reynolds of Burkett, Neb., familiarly known as the "Boy Poet," and Mrs. Angie C. Brown of Grand Island were married in this city.

Mr. Reynolds is 80, and has embarked upon the sea of matrimony five times, while his bride, who is 74, is trying it for the third time.

The groom is the author of a volume of verse that has gained considerable recognition throughout the state. The newly weds will reside at Grand Island.

Case of Woman Suing Over Husband's Death on Trial

Fairbury, Neb., March 7.—(Special.)—Judge Leonard Colby is holding the March term of the 18th judicial district at Fairbury. There are 18 jury cases docketed and court may last 10 days.

Among cases to be tried is that of "Dolly" Hawkins against city of Fairbury for the loss of her husband, an employee of the Lincoln Telephone company, who was killed here two years ago by coming in contact with a live wire.

Beatrice Contractors to Start Work on Rail Line

Beatrice, Neb., March 7.—(Special.)—Sprague & Nicely, recently awarded a contract for building 10 miles of railroad for the Santa Fe out of Kingman, Ariz., are shipping their equipment to that point from Beatrice, Alliance and Denver. It will require about 25 freight cars to move the outfit. The contract amounts to about \$1,000,000.

The Dancing Master

By RUBY M. AYRES.
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SYNOPSIS.
Elizabeth Conroy, a country girl, is visiting her city cousin. They take her to a ball. She feels keenly the contrast between her dowdy, home-made frock and the smart clothes the other women wear. The only person in the gathering who takes pity on her is Pat Royston, who takes her home. Elizabeth's relatives tell her that he is a dancing master; that he is married, and that she is not to meet him again. Elizabeth's uncle, with whom she meets Royston, but he does not recognize her. Walter Royston, however, but she rejects him. Her uncle leaves her only 100 pounds. She goes to the city and, unexpectedly, meets Pat Royston. Now go on with the story:

(Continued from Yesterday.)

Elizabeth snatched it from him with a glad cry.

"Oh, thank you! I thought it had gone forever. I was so frightened—it's all I've got in the world."

She sat down on the nearest chair, and with shaking fingers tipped the contents of the purse into her lap.

Royston watched her with a wry smile.

"Oh, it's all there," he said dryly. She looked up.

"I know; I didn't think anybody had taken any, but it's such a relief. Thank you ever so much."

She tumbled the money back anyhow, and rose to her feet. "Goodbye, and thank you so much," she said, turning to the door.

But he barred her way.

"Please wait a moment!"

Elizabeth looked up with scared eyes. "I can't wait—I must go!"

"You shall go when you have told me why you came here just now and then went away as you did."

The color deepened in her cheeks. "You know me today, then," she said tremulously.

He echoed the word vaguely. "Today? What do you mean?"

Her cheeks burned, but she met his eyes bravely.

"The other morning at Paddington you pretended you did not know me," she said.

There was a little silence.

"I thought you would prefer that I did not recognize you," Royston said with a touch of sarcasm. "After the way your cousin took you from my contamination the other night I naturally supposed that you had been told that I am not a fit person to associate with."

Elizabeth looked up at him, then down at her wet clothes.

"You're much cleverer than I am," she said painfully. "I could not have thought of an excuse like that."

He colored hotly.

"I beg your pardon; that is not an excuse, but the truth."

"Oh!" said Elizabeth blankly. She did not believe him, but she felt it impossible to argue further. She stood for a moment twisting the recovered purse in her hand; then she turned again to the door. "I think—I think I will go now," she said.

Royston kept his fingers on the handle.

"Why did you come here?" he asked quietly.

There was something in his voice which compelled an answer, and Elizabeth said slowly:

"I want to learn to dance; I saw the plate outside. I did not know it was anything to do with you."

"You mean that, if you had known, you would not have come?"

"Yes."

"I see." She could feel his eyes upon her; then quite suddenly he opened the door for her to pass out.

"Good afternoon," he said formally.

Elizabeth's heart gave a quick throb of disappointment, but she moved at once. "Oh, good afternoon!" she said helplessly, and without another glance at him she went down the stairs and out into the street.

The rain had stopped, and a cool breeze had arisen and she shivered as she walked slowly along, the precious purse clutched tightly in one hand, but her heart was hot with a sort of resentment, which she could not understand.

It had only been an excuse, she was sure, when he said that he thought she would prefer not to be recognized. If she had been smartly dressed, like the girl in the gray shoes, he would have raised his hat to her readily enough.

And then came another thought. She had told him that she wished to learn to dance; why, then, had he not offered to teach her?

Perhaps because he thought she was unable to pay. Perhaps because he thought she would have no suitable clothes.

The rain commenced again, and Elizabeth, aware from her bitter thoughts to seek shelter once more, there was a shop entrance close by where another girl was already standing out of the rain, and Elizabeth joined her.

They looked at one another, and the other girl smiled.

"Beautiful afternoon," she said slantly.

"Yes; I'm wet through," Elizabeth said.

There was a little silence; then she

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50-Cent Price Raise Not Enough, Say Beet Growers

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Representatives of the growers are in Denver conferring with sugar company officials in an effort to increase the guarantee.

The 50-cent-a-ton raise means, the addition of \$350,000 in the cash payment that would be made this coming fall to the beet growers.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days.

Druggists refund money if PAGO OINTMENT fails to cure itching, blind, bleeding or protruding piles. Instantly relieves itching. Price, 50c—Ad.

Phone Today!

We are all somewhat inclined to delay doing what we know has to be done some time anyway. For that reason we wish to tell you that Monday and Tuesday are the heaviest days in laundry work, because lots of people really must have their laundry done on these days.

If you do not absolutely need your laundry work Monday and Tuesday, phone us today or tomorrow, thus assuring your work a faster service and more prompt delivery. We do not wash clothes on Saturday, but you may phone us on that day, your bundle to be called for Monday.

Our Soft Water Wet Washing Service costs only 5c a pound, but it's the finest you can buy for ANY PRICE. Remember that when you are wondering where to send this week's bundle of laundry. Our phone number is HA rney 0784.

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